





SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:
GLASGOWANARCHISTS.ORG.UK
/SCHOOLS**

- St Marys School House
- St Agnes RC Primary School
- Cleveden Secondary School
- St Gregory's Primary School
- Wyndford Nursery School
- Ruchill Primary School
- Our Lady of the Assumption Primary
- Wester Common Primary School
- Garscube Nursery School

- St Aloysius RC Primary School
- Albert Primary School
- Sighthill Primary School

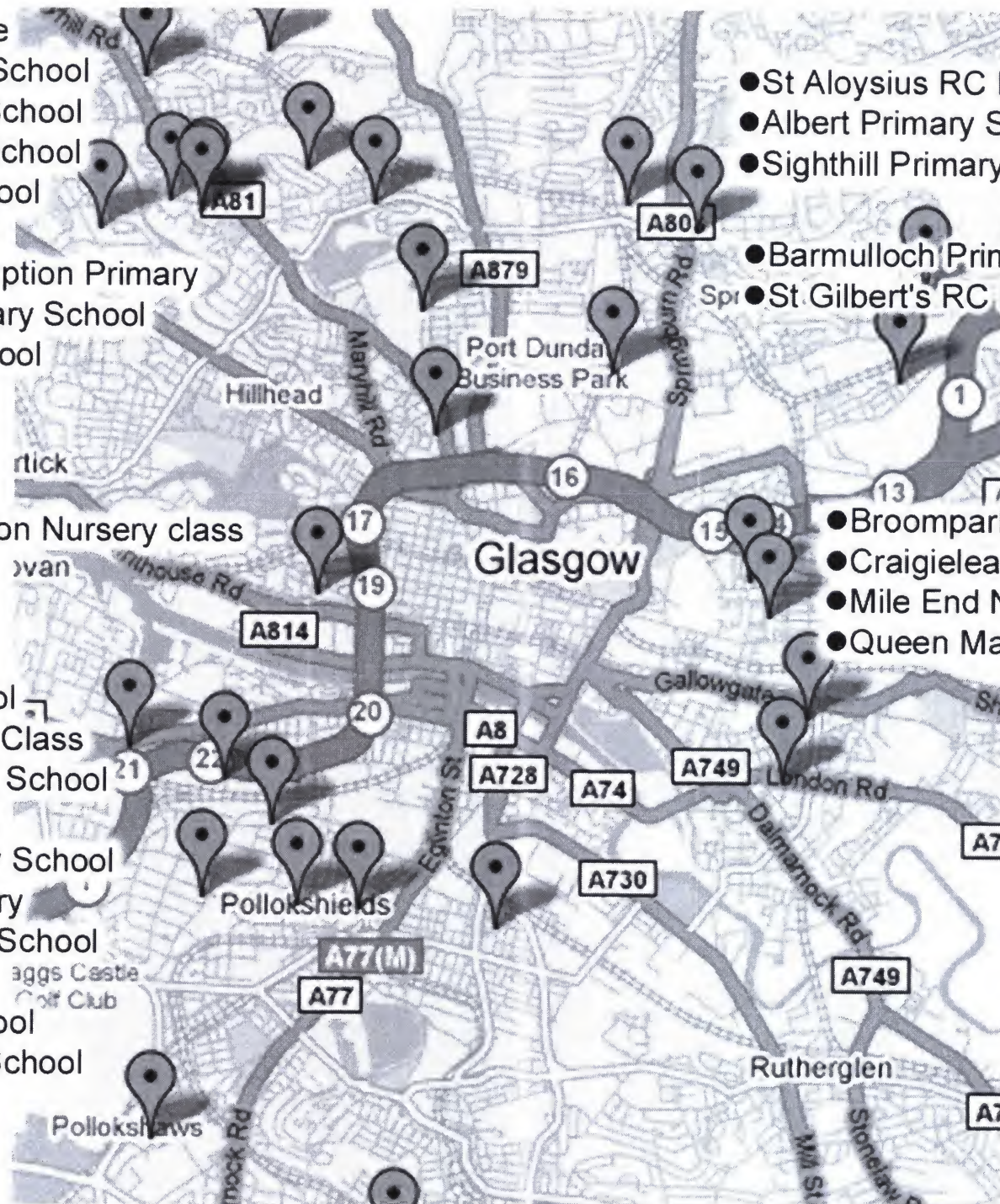
- Barmulloch Primary School
- St Gilbert's RC Primary School

- Anderston Nursery class

- Broompark Day Nursery
- Craigielea Day Nursery
- Mile End Nursery School
- Queen Mary Street Nursery

- Victoria Primary School
- Pollokshields Nursery Class
- Newark Drive Nursery School
- Nithsdale Rd. Nursery
- St Albert's RC Primary School
- Cornwall Street Nursery
- Bellahouston Primary School

- Merrylee Primary School
- Shawbridge Nursery School



Background – GCC have threatened 25 schools in the Greater Glasgow area with closure or want them to merge with other schools in the area. However, in the majority of cases, this would be a detriment to the local community, hinder parent's ability of work due to increases in travel time for picking kids up and generate larger class sizes for the schools receiving the extra students.

There are also wider issues including GCC offering insufficient/unrealistic alternatives, showing a complete lack of consideration for the needs of some of the more specialised schools and their students, selling off land for property development and blatantly putting capitalist gains before the welfare of the children and local community.

Getting involved – In the North West and South, there are already activists working with some of the campaigns who can act as points of contact – please see sheets of current campaign statuses and contact details - These campaigns may be in the later stages of planning and need support in areas such as

- Spreading information about the campaigns
- Supporting occupations
- Lobbying/demonstrations/protest – please fill in contact details sheet

However, please check which schools are close to you or ones you can access easily at <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&mca=0&msid=106216918436867692169.000461aa57eb5135b872f&ll=55.993005,-4.371872&spn=0.158606,0.418167&z=11>) and what help is required as campaigns may be at different stages or have different strategies agreed by the parents. Not all the schools are in favour of militant action and at the schools which have decided to occupy etc., it may not be a popular tactic and the parents who wish to occupy will require extra support from activists.

Knowledge of the situation of schools in the East End and North Glasgow is not as strong as the schools in the North West and South. However, as there is already contact with St Gilberts and Barnulloch **so contact needs to be made with the schools in Springburn and Robroyston as soon as possible-**

It may be necessary for a preliminary fact-finding mission to get an idea of how the parents feel about the closures, whether there is a campaign underway etc

What we hope to achieve – obviously saving schools which are central to their communities but we should also be looking to increase confident in our own abilities, each others abilities and the communities' belief in itself so that we are in a stronger position to tackle other issues affecting us as individuals and as communities.

We are also looking for non-parent activists to take the initiative and the responsibility upon themselves to engage with their local communities and supporting the networking between campaigns, facilitating getting reports,

statements, plans of actions produced, distributed and generally enabling horizontal communication and the sharing of ideas with the least amount of effort from the parents.

Reports from Schools

St Gilbert's School in Germiston has been given an 'A' rating by the Council ie Excellent and in very good condition, but have proposed to move the children to a 'D' rated school (Barmulloch) which is not only already in disrepair but also has asbestos which GCC say can be fixed while the children attend school and with very little disruption. (The Asbestos Council has advised against this)

The receiving schools are also 1.7m away along Royston Road which is notoriously busy with a car auction sited on the road with lorries making deliveries every day. Every business on the road has off-road parking due to the heavy traffic along the main thoroughfare.

As well as this, St Gilbert's was not originally marked for closure but was added after the proposals had been submitted. This was freely admitted by Brenda Wallace at the St Gilbert's consultation meeting on Tuesday 3rd of March.

The parents of St Gilberts and Barmulloch will be holding a parents meeting in the next few weeks to discuss what action is to be taken. They have not had the opportunity to do so as all previous meetings have had council representatives and officials in attendance and so did not feel they could discuss their options openly.

(St Gilbert's Parent)

Friends of St Gilbert Primary School Support Contact: Ga-Yee 07845 375002 (m)

Govanhill SOS 06/03/09

As a community we need Victoria Primary and Nursery Schools to provide continuity for our children. If the 60 nursery and 88 primary places are lost through the callous closure proposal for Govanhill's Victoria school, there will be a knock on effect for years to come. The Victoria nursery children become the Victoria primary children. If the nursery closes with the loss of 60 places the Govanhill community as a whole will be put in a position for the foreseeable future of not having enough places for 3 to 5 year olds. We are fighting hard to reverse this bad proposal and to change the minds of all the 46 Labour Councillors who voted for the proposal to close the 12 primary schools and 13 nurseries in the first instance.

(Victoria School and Nursery Grandparent)

Friends of Victoria School Support Group Contact: Ian 07826 834116(m)

THE BURGH ANGEL



Crowds of campaigners descended on the Council Chambers to protest school closures

School closure families take battle to Council

On Thursday 29th January, City Council staff held a lunchtime meeting behind the closed doors of Glasgow's opulent City Chambers.

Their purpose was to open a consultation process with the parents facing catastrophe with the imminent closure of their local nursery and primary schools. Consultation was in very limited supply because tickets for the admission of the general public were scarce, despite the ample size of the City Chambers. The parents were left out in the cold and out of the consultation process. This in spite of the fact that they are the ones who will see the effect of the closures on their children and communities.

"If they take the schools away it'll be a ghetto!" - Selina Tyrell of the Wyndford campaign knows exactly what the effect will be on her community.

"Uprooting the education" of her young children is what mother of two Sharon fears. Mothers of children attending St. Agnes and the Wyndford schools, Sharon, Maureen Sweeny, Jaqueline and Lyndsey Neilson face the impossible situation of weekly increases of as much as 10-15 hours in the time and £20-30 in the cost of getting their children to school, not to mention the safety fears they have because of the busy rush hour roads.

Glasgow City Council (GCC) is also offering measures to Ruchill Autism School and Primary which shows a complete disregard for the needs of the children who attend the specialised unit. It is not uncommon for some to take up to 18 months to settle in, but GCC expects the summer holidays to be enough time for adjustment. GCC wants to move the children to Westercommon

Cont'd on Page 3

SOS

Save Our Schools

Special

Community

GHA to face class action

South Maryhill resident Sioux Jackson, will be familiar to readers who followed the public meetings Queens Cross Housing Association (QXHA) organised in recent years to explain to residents what we could and could not expect from long-awaited works on the local area.

Dissatisfied with QXHA's response to her own complaints about dampness, Sioux was motivated by these meetings to attend the developing Woodside Residents' Association, overseen by QXHA staff. The result of this was that a few simple complaints about dampness, dog-fouling and general security led to Sioux launching an official complaint against Glasgow Housing Association for, among other things, serious breaches of the Data Protection Act.

Cont'd on Page 3

www.burghangel.org.uk

Schools

Council hit pupils and parents in education cut plan

Glasgow City Council (GCC) has announced a major programme of school closures which it says will save £3.72m per year. The decision by the Executive Committee of the Council was voted to go ahead on Friday 23rd of January.

- Labour – All 12 Labour councillors present voted in favour of the closures. Labour has a majority of 13/20 councillors on the committee.
- Liberal Democrats – abstained/did not vote
- SNP – Voted against
- Scottish Green Party – voted against

GCC has overspent £6m for the financial 08/09 year which is only 0.5% of the total budget but enough for them to panic and cut services. School closures especially are a mark of desperation. GCC expects primary school rolls to rise for the first time in decades so this time, it is purely a financial cutting exercise.

The shortfall was caused by poor financial management by the GCC which is meant to keep a contingency fund for emergencies. However, the fund has been continually raided over the last few years as well as used to make up



Campaigners meet at Ruchill Community Education Centre to discuss the fate of Ruchill Primary and Our Lady of the Assumption Primary schools

shortfalls due to the recent rise in fuel prices. Therefore, the school closures are GCC trying to deal with what ordinary folk have been dealing with for months. This is a real failure on the part of the very senior (and very well paid) Directors and Chief Executive of GCC.

Genuinely empty schools should not be kept open but healthy schools at the heart of communities are being put on the closures list. In Wyndford and Ruchill, both primary schools are to be closed and the children bussed to school because replacements are one to three miles away across busy roads. This will cripple the education and community spirit and damage the employment prospects for their parents. However, money is also being poured into housing regeneration and a mix of private and social housing developments is already underway. Refurbishment is expected to begin in the next few months. Demolition was considered but ruled out.

However, while swimming baths and Burgh halls are re-opening, schools are taken away with the other hand. Lessons from Milton where imagined savings from closing St Augustine's Secondary and playing

fields have not been learned and it cost GCC far more to refurbish and re-open these facilities, after a generation of neglect and damage to local youth and communities generally.

GCC will also not even consider the idea of shared campuses, which already successfully worked out in Lanarkshire and elsewhere. Wyndford Primary and St.Gregory's Primary were separated by only a high fence and it was an easy matter for them to share buildings and facilities but keep separate identities for education. The same can be done in Ruchill and elsewhere. In fact, GCC plans to go back on this idea for Ruchill and Possil and nine months ago, tried to weasel out of its promise to provide free bus travel to the children who suffered from the closure of St.Augustine's in Milton. This was stopped after a local campaign and few people trust them not to try the same thing on other primary school children they've promised bus travel to after closures.

For more information and a more detailed document please see get in touch with the Burgh Angel Website: www.burghangel.co.uk and see 'How to Save Your School from Closure' on the back page.

Schools protest

Cont'd from Page 1

Primary which will need to be renovated. It would then be demolished when the children move again in 2012 to a new development, Hyndpark Primary.

Karen Merz, a parent, explained: "The children are taken by taxi to school which takes 45 minutes. The Council said they would put on a bus but how does that save them money?

"My son has been at the school for 18 months but it took him 12 months to settle down. How are our kids to cope with the trauma of moving about?"

GCC's plans are as irrational as they are callous - established schools with good records are being broken up. They are also unconcerned with overcrowding and unsuitable accommodation in proposing to close Victoria Primary and Nursery in Cathcart.

The Victoria schools are one building, however the Council chose to only count the 88 children attending the primary school, forgetting that there are also 60 children attending the nursery, 10 full time, as well as over 100 on the waiting list.

It has taken Shawbridge Nursery to establish relationships and build a multicultural community in the centre of a largely immigrant population. Telling of the setback closing the nursery would cause, mothers Susan Quails and Janice McGrath also noted the whiff of dishonest dealings by a GCC that has chosen to spring these cuts out of nowhere.

"Is there a shady deal at Shawbridge?" asked a former nursery nurse. Whatever the answer to that question is, one thing is for sure: the parents fighting to save their schools place no trust in the council, whose contemptible behaviour is only too obvious.

School Closures Campaign - Key Dates:

17th April 2009 - Executive of Glasgow City Council meeting to make decision

23rd April 2009 - Full meeting of Glasgow City Council to confirm decision

Council meetings open to public, although notification to City Chambers of attendance in advance may be required for access to be granted.

Local takes on housing

Cont'd from Page 1 (right)

Last year saw the completion of much delayed works to bring many buildings in the South Maryhill Local Housing Organisation (LHO) up to a standard residents expect as nothing more than reasonable. It is already clear that the sense of relief this has generated is to be exploited and passed off as goodwill to enable the second stage stock transfer to be pushed through. Residents will have to be prepared to face down GHA and the LHOs if we are to avoid this proceeding via an effective rubber-stamping process.

Pursuing her complaint throughout 2008, Sioux looked to her friends and neighbours for support. Sharing Sioux's concerns about their homes and landlords, these residents were keen to put their weight behind Sioux's efforts. So it was that Sioux pulled off a remarkable organisational feat: equipped with official GHA (Management) Ltd forms of Representation Mandate, pulled from their website, she signed up more than 100 residents to join her in a class action against GHA,

with herself as the legally mandated representative.

The case is in transition at the time of writing. The GHA official complaints procedure was exhausted as 2008 ended, and Sioux awaits further advice about her next step, which will be a legal suit.

Already, Sioux's efforts are an example to inspire local activists seeking effective means to challenge GHA and the LHOs. She has shown just how much can be achieved by sheer persistence.

By unearthing the Representation Mandate procedure, Sioux has provided a useful tool to bring residents' collective weight to bear on the management at GHA in a manner that must surely help encourage community organisation.

Friends and supporters of The Burgh Angel are already signed up with Sioux's first campaign. So regular readers can expect to read more about our work as it develops through 2009 and beyond.



Many of Woodside's flats suffer from a lack of Housing Association investment

Activism

School closure action points

If your school has been chosen for closure then you now have a very short window to save it. Once a final decision has been made it will be very difficult to have it reversed. If your school is on a list of closures then the best way to get it off is by putting up the toughest fight.

1) Occupation

This is the only sure-fire way to win. Symbolic one-night occupations are only good for newspaper stories. Long running occupations need a shift rota of occupiers, helpers to bring supplies and someone outside to coordinate media/politicians/authorities. DO NOT go into this without thinking through all the consequences beforehand.

2) Politics

Closures are political decisions, not official ones. Politicians divert blame onto the officials who are paid highly for their role. DO NOT waste your time chasing the Director of Education. Find allies from the far left to Labour/Conservative lobbyists. Politicians are scared of losing votes to the opposition. Play on that fear.

BUT REMEMBER: Allies are allies, not leaders. It's a campaign to Save Your Schools, not to drum up support for political parties.

3) Media

Keep press releases short, in article form, with plenty of quotes. Email out and follow up with phonecall. Get contacts for future stories. REMEMBER: ALWAYS include contact details for more info, offer interviews.

4) Nice Tactics

These don't work and are designed to waste time. Legal Aid is not granted for legal proceedings and raising funds will divert time away from effective campaigning.

5) Nasty Tactics

Fight tough. Closing schools saves serious money and selling the land for private development is worth millions. Visit the Councillors' surgeries with delegations, talk to their families and friends. Lobby / demonstrate / protest. REMEMBER: They (the politicians) are in this for the money, not your kid's welfare. You are not in this to make friends. You are in this to win.

6) If you lose

Sadly, it happens. But there's no shame in losing if you gave it your best shot. You can't win them all. Just make sure they don't grind you down so much you can't win the next fight. Don't wallow in despair. At the end, though please NOT before, make sure your kids get into a good substitute school. REMEMBER: Your kids are resilient. With your help through the transition period, they'll bounce back, whatever the outcome of your campaign.

Full document can be found at www.burghangel.org.uk

Sudoku

		7	3					
	9	6				8		
	8		1				4	
	5		6			3	2	
	4				1			
3	2		9		7			
5		3			8			
	4			5	9			
		2	7					

Each row, each column and each group of nine squares has all the digits from 1 to 9. You can only have one of each digit in each group though.

The results of this sudoku will be printed next issue!

Solution to last issue's puzzle

6	4	3	9	8	7	2	1	5
2	1	5	6	4	3	9	8	7
9	8	7	5	2	1	4	3	6
8	3	6	4	5	9	1	7	2
5	2	1	8	7	6	3	4	9
7	9	4	3	1	2	5	6	8
4	7	9	2	3	8	6	5	1
3	6	8	1	9	5	7	2	4
1	5	2	7	6	4	8	9	3

The Burgh Angel Contact Details

The Burgh Angel can be contacted as follows. If you are letting us know about your views, or some news you think we should report, please tell us whether or not we can publish your name.

Write to: The Burgh Angel
1/2 189b Maryhill Road,
Glasgow, G20 7XJ
Answerphone: 07531 954 385
Email: theburghangel@gmail.com
Web: www.burghangel.org.uk

The Burgh Angel is run by local volunteers. We have no affiliation to the local or national government or political parties. We will print what we believe to be the truth and are not afraid to offend if the truth needs to be told.

We would also welcome any comments or ideas you might have. When contacting us, please tell us whether or not you want your name published in the Burgh Angel - we will not identify you without your permission.

**NOTICE TO OCCUPIERS OF THE FORMER
SCHOOL BUILDING KNOWN AS ST PAUL'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURLFORD.**

TAKE NOTICE that you, the occupiers of the former school building belonging to East Ayrshire Council and known as St Paul's Primary School, Hurlford, are occupying said property without any right, title or authority to do so. Your occupation of said building is therefore unauthorised and unlawful.

There are no services being provided within the property, such as water, electricity, fire safety and other essential services. East Ayrshire Council is concerned about possible contraventions of the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the consequences for any person within the property as no opportunity for inspection of the building has been afforded. Your occupation of the building is therefore entirely at your own risk and East Ayrshire Council will not accept any liability arising therefrom.

DATED: 14th August 1996

BY AUTHORITY OF: Head of Legal Services
East Ayrshire Council

LIVE BBC NEWS CHANNEL

News Front Page

World

UK

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Scotland politics

Wales

Business

Politics

Health

Education

Science & Environment

Technology

Entertainment

Also in the news

Video and Audio

Have Your Say

Magazine

In Pictures

Country Profiles

Special Reports

Related BBC sites

Sport

Weather

Democracy Live

Radio 1 Newsbeat

CBBC Newsround

On This Day

Editors' Blog

Page last updated at 12:09 GMT, Monday, 30 November 2009

 E-mail this to a friend

 Printable version

Parents fight proposals to shut Lana

Parents at closure-threatened primary schools in North Lanarkshire have vowed to fight the proposals.

Gartsherrie Primary in Coatbridge Belvidere in Bellshill, St Francis of Assisi, Cumbernauld, and St Matthews in Wishaw could shut under council plans.

Falling rolls and the poor state of some of the accommodation have been cited as the reasons for closure.

However, parents have been organising petitions and holding protests in a bid to keep the schools open.

Proposals to shut the four primaries were drawn up after a review of the schools estate earlier this year.

Reports presented to councillors last month showed they were operating at significantly under capacity.

Ahead of a public meeting on Monday to discuss the closure proposal for Gartsherrie Primary, more than 150 pupils and parents marched to the council's education headquarters in Coatbridge to hand in about 4,000 objection letters.

They waved placards with messages including "Dear Santa, Save our School."

Kay Rowatt, who's son Daniel is in P1 at the school, is part of the action group set up to fight the closure.



Parents at Gartsherrie have gathered thousands of objections to the closure

“ The whole closure proposal is a farce. The data they have based it on is nine years out of date ”

Kay Rowatt
Parent, Gartsherrie Primary

Call to end Coatbridge school sit-in

19:54 GMT, Friday, 11 June 2010 20:54 UK

Parents have staged protests and marches and are now holding a sit-in

Parents staging a sit-in at a closure-threatened primary school in North Lanarkshire have been urged to end their protest.

About ten people have been occupying Gartsherrie Primary in Coatbridge since 2 June.

North Lanarkshire Council has announced the school will now remain permanently closed to pupils.

An arrangement where children are bussed to a local secondary for lessons will be in place until the end of term.

The school is among four primaries in the region due to shut for good at the end of June.

Parents had set up an action group to fight the closure, staged marches, signed petitions and even mounted an unsuccessful legal challenge against the council's decision.

A spokesman for North Lanarkshire council said it had taken "every appropriate action" to end the occupation.

He said the council had offered to meet with parents and to waive the legal fees due to the local authority as a result of the recent Court of Session hearing.

He added: "To provide continuity for parents and staff, the council has decided that pupils will not return to the Gartsherrie building this session."

Councillor Jim Logue, convener of learning and leisure services, said: "It is very sad that the Coatbridge community will not be able to experience the school for a last time.

Save Our Schools – Glasgow

- [Front Page](#)
- [About](#)
- [upcoming events](#)
- [Labour Councillors](#)



Entries tagged as 'save our schools'

Occupation – Gartsherrie Primary School in Coatbridge

15 June, 2010 • [1 Comment](#)

From the [Scotsman](#)



Parents shut themselves in school in bid to keep it open

Published Date: 14 June 2010

DEVOTED parents have barricaded themselves inside a school for the last two weeks in a desperate bid to stop it from closing.

The group of 13 have been occupying Gartsherrie Primary School in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, in an attempt to reverse a closure decision.

The local authority made the decision in March to shut the school at the end of this current term, sparking angry opposition from concerned parents.

Fiona Dingwall, of Coatbridge, who has been inside the school since 2 June, said:

“It’s like Big Brother in here a little bit but everyone’s spirits are still high and we are determined to see it through. Our main aim is not to keep the school open permanently. We just want it to be postponed long enough that the children won’t be pushed from one place to another.”

Another parent added:

“There is a piano in the classroom and we have been singing along to our favourite tunes. We shall not be moved is certainly one of them.”

Jim Logue, convener of Learning and Leisure Services for North Lanarkshire Council, said:

“Delaying the decision on the proposed closure till late 2011 would not be in the best interests of the school and would merely extend the disruption and stress.”

Categories: [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged: [save our schools](#), [Gartsherrie Primary School](#), [Coatbridge](#), [Occupation](#), [Parents](#), [Scotsman](#), [Fiona Dingwall](#), [Jim Logue](#)

Fury as school closure plan is backed – North Lanarkshire

24 March, 2010 • [Leave a Comment](#)



Youngsters show their support for St Matthew's Primary after councillors voted to wield the axe

[SAVE ST MATTHEWS – Bebo page](#)

“To you Mr Lunny and your band of no good councillors.
Promises mean everything, but after they are broken, sorry means nothing.

You will do well to remember that as we all have very good memories.”

Tracy Richardson

From the [Evening Times](#)

Protesting parents reacted with fury as council bosses recommended the closure of four schools and two nurseries.

Despite months of protests from parents determined to save their primaries the majority of councillors voted to wield the axe on schools in North Lanarkshire.

St Francis of Assisi Primary and Cedarwood Nursery in Cumbernauld, Belvidere Primary in Bellshill, St Matthew's Primary in Wishaw and Gartsherrie Primary in Coatbridge and Newarthill Nursery in Motherwell are all to shut.

Head of educational resources Murdo MacIver faced questions from opposition councillors during a three-hour debate on the fate of the schools.

The council voted 19 to 14 to shut St Francis, 20 to 13 to close Belvidere, 19 to 13 to shut St Matthew's and 19 to 12 to axe Gartsherrie, with several abstentions.

Mr MacIver was hit with angry shouts from the public gallery as he read out a list of reasons for closing the four schools.

Parents packed into the gallery at Motherwell Civic Centre for yesterday's debate. There were cries of "shame" as the votes were cast.

Security guards were forced several times to demand silence from protestors watching the debate.

Duncan Waddell, from the Belvidere Parents Council, has a son, Ruaridh, in primary five at the school.

The 43-year-old said: "We are unhappy with the handling of the consultation and disappointed with the outcome.

"Despite the use of the word 'consultation', we strongly feel that we still lack answers to our key concerns regarding the proposal."

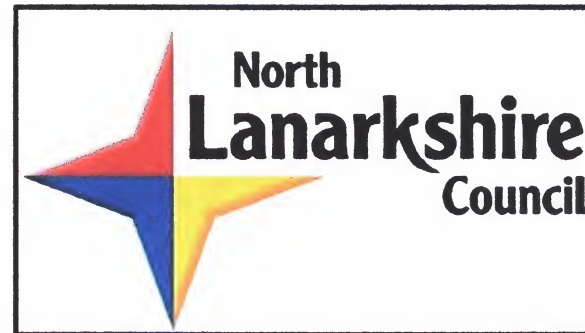
Kay Rowat, a mum from Gartsherrie Primary, said: "It's not a surprise. We knew they wouldn't save our school. It's just all politics. We're very grateful to the councillors who backed us but the feeling towards the others is really bad."

Categories: [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged: [Belvidere Primary](#), [Cedarwood Nursery](#), [Duncan Waddell](#), [Gartsherrie Primary](#), [Kay Rowat](#), [Murdo Maciver](#), [Newarthill Nursery](#), [North Lanarkshire Council](#), [save our schools](#), [school closure](#), [shame](#), [St Francis of Assisi Primary](#), [St Matthew's Primary](#), [stupid proposal](#)

[Parents occupy school in Lanarkshire](#)

15 January, 2010 · [3 Comments](#)



[Click for STV article](#)

From the [BBC](#)

<http://sosglasgow.wordpress.com/tag/save-our-schools/>

23/06/2010

Parents at a closure-threatened primary school in North Lanarkshire have occupied the building and are refusing to leave.

Four women are staging the sit-in at St Matthew's Primary in Wishaw.

They are angry at proposals by North Lanarkshire Council which could see the school shut, along with three others in the region.

The council said education officials were going to St Matthew's to in a bid to resolve the situation.

The protesters told BBC Scotland they had sleeping bags and food and were determined to remain in the school.

A public consultation on the school closures is due to end on Friday.

Parents at the other threatened primaries – Belvidere in Bellshill, Gartsherrie in Coatbridge and St Francis of Assisi, Cumbernauld – have also staged protests, held meetings and arranged petitions in a bid to keep the schools open.

[More...](#)



Click for Bebo
page

Categories: [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged: [Belvidere](#), [Gartsherrie Primary](#), [Lanarkshire](#), [North Lanarkshire Council](#), [occupy](#), [save our schools](#), [St Francis of Assisi](#), [St Matthew's Primary](#), [Wishaw](#)

Parents fight proposals to shut Lanarkshire primaries

1 December, 2009 · [Leave a Comment](#)



“ The whole closure proposal is a farce. The data they have based it on is nine years out of date ”

Kay Rowatt
Parent, Gartsherrie Primary

Parents at closure-threatened primary schools in North Lanarkshire have vowed to fight the proposals.

Gartsherrie Primary in Coatbridge Belvidere in Bellshill, St Francis of Assisi, Cumbernauld, and St Matthews in Wishaw could shut under council plans.

Falling rolls and the poor state of some of the accommodation have been cited as the reasons for closure.

However, parents have been organising petitions and holding protests in a bid to keep the schools open.

Proposals to shut the four primaries were drawn up after a review of the schools estate earlier this year.

<http://sosglasgow.wordpress.com/tag/save-our-schools/>

23/06/2010

Glasgow Schools Closure Gaffe, Politicians admit to getting sums wrong



Steven Purcell - Leader
of Glasgow City
Council

Categories: [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged: [gaffe](#), [getgo](#), [glasgow city council](#), [glasgow schools closure](#), [save our schools](#), [steven purcell](#), [wyndford](#)

Glasgow Schools Closure Gaffe, Politicians admit to getting sums wrong

29 September, 2009 · [2 Comments](#)

From GlasgowGuide.co.uk



In an embarrassing gaffe by members of Glasgow City Council, revealed over the weekend, it was shown that the principal reason put forward for the closure of nearly two dozen schools in the city

<http://sosglasgow.wordpress.com/tag/save-our-schools/>

23/06/2010

earlier this year could not now be supported by official statistics. In April this year leading Labour politicians within the country's largest local authority revealed that they intended to close a significant number of city schools because of "falling school rolls".

However, it has since been found that school rolls in Glasgow are actually on the increase, although city council planners and politicians claim that the rising number of children attending schools in the city has taken them by surprise.

Councillor Stephen Curran, the politician responsible for overseeing service reform within the council, confirmed the rise in pupil numbers when he said that there were "more children in Glasgow than we had been expecting." In an added development the councillor intimated that the rise in school rolls would now mean that politicians would have to make an extra £2million in cuts to the city's education budget to accommodate for the increased number of pupils in city classrooms.

Although pupil numbers are on the rise, the council has appeared to rule out any possibility of a reversal of the controversial, and deeply unpopular, closure of 20 city schools earlier this year. In a number of cases – as with Barmulloch Primary School in Glasgow North East (shown below) – the school has already been demolished, despite the fact that the term has only recently started.

Categories: [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged: [glasgow city council](#), [incompetent politicians](#), [save our schools](#), [steven purcell](#)

[Goodbye, safe, friendly community based schools...](#)

23 September, 2009 · [Leave a Comment](#)

Quoted from [East Dumbartonshire SSP blog](#).

Monday, 21 September 2009

Today, the Wyndford Primary School was bulldozed to the ground.

Quite symbolic really as the Government look for further cuts...

We have paid for this crisis with OUR tax money to plug the hole left by greedy bankers. We are paying through job losses; wage freezes and low pay.

Our children are also being made to pay.

MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF
CASTLEMILK SAVE OUR SCHOOLS & SERVICES
4/4/96 - 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

J. Gunn (Netherton Action Group)	
G. Edgar (N.A.G.)	J. Gallagher (N.A.G.)
J. Hamilton (N.A.G.)	J. Cooper
J. Garron	P. McPhee

APOLOGIES:

D. Kennedy	C. Cooper (Jeely Piece Club)
J. McAuley	Maureen Douglass
Louise McKinnon	

- (1) P. McPhee opened the meeting explaining his reasons for believing that there was a need for an active campaigning group in Castlemilk which would be prepared to resist cuts in services in Castlemilk and the threatened closure of Netherton Primary School.
- (2) John Cooper then spoke regarding the need for widening the scale of the campaign by contacting other groups similar to our own. He spoke about his experiences attending various meetings city wide.
- (3) Jim Gunn asked for information regarding individuals involved, firstly attending tonights meetings plus others he had met during his campaigning for the Netherton Primary Action Group.

J. Cooper and P. McPhee explained their political views and were able to give some information regarding others working in the Save Our Schools and Hands Off Our Water groups.

- (4) J. Hamilton, G. Edgar and J. Gunn then asked for suggestion or ideas to promote public awareness about the situation at Netherton. After a general discussion it was agreed to take several forms of action:
 - (a) a public demonstration is to be held in the Holmbyre and Drakemire areas of the housing scheme;
 - (b) the Netherton Group is to produce a weekly newsletter to bring residents in the area up to date with the campaign;
 - (c) the need to contact other groups in Castlemilk was agreed upon;
 - (d) posters and leaflets are to be produced and a meeting with a sympathetic printer will be arranged as soon as possible.
- (5) A discussion took place about the remit of the Castlemilk Save Our Schools and Services group. It was agreed that whilst it was vital that the group should campaign on broader issues the major thrust of our energies should be concentrated on the Netherton Primary School parents as they are at present in the front line.

- (6) We spoke briefly about the need to sustain the morale of the parents at Netherton. The intensity of commitment by some has led to strains in their family lives so we should work to ensure that no individual is asked to do more than his or her share. Encouraging others to join in would help ease this situation.
- (7) The meeting closed at 9.16 p.m. with an agreement to draw up a constitution.

Glasgow-Wide Coordinating Meeting

Save Our Schools

Thursday 4 April
7.30pm
City Halls, Candleriggs
Glasgow
(Albion Street entrance)

The meeting is open to all those who wish to further develop the campaign against school closures. If you have any ideas or wish to find out what parents at other schools are up to then come along.

For more information phone:
Kenny 771 3149 or Andrew 945 1069

No Closures! No Cuts!

— **Glasgow Wide** —

Save Our Schools

& Services Campaign

On Thursday 4th April in the Glasgow City Halls, a meeting attended by 70 people, and representing 14 schools, agreed to unite in a Glasgow wide mass campaign against school closures.

Speaker after speaker ponted out that if the schools were to be saved it could only be achieved by unity in action, and that the campaign itself would have to be conducted without the support of Glasgow's councillors. This campaign must be a success - at stake is not only the future education of our children - but the future of schools as centres of activity in our communities. Teaching posts, cleaners' and janitors jobs are all under threat. Falling school roles must be seen as an opportunity to improve education not close schools.

Glasgow's councillors have refused to stand up to the Tory cuts, and they have refused to stand up for those who elected them only a year ago. It's sheer hypocrisy - on the same day that the Glasgow wide SOS campaign was formed, councillors were voting themselves an increase in expenses of £409,000! While education is being slashed by over £10 million, with the school closure programme itself accounting for £3.2 million, Glasgow City Council has agreed to spend £3.5 million on the new Modern Art Gallery. It's hardly surprising that Robert Gould recently admitted in the Glasgow Evening Times that the closure programme is "financially driven" rather than educationaly driven.

It was agreed the campaign should be called Save Our Schools & Services, and a number of activities and ideas were proposed and agreed, of which the distribution of this newsletter was only one (see **inside for list of events**). Support the campaign and build in your area for the events listed inside. **PLEASE FILL OUT THE AFFILIATION FORM ON THE BACK PAGE AND RETURN ASAP.**

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS CONTACT PHONE TREE

- ABBOTSFORD: MARGARET WALLACE 429 4092
- CARNWADRIC: KAREN ALLISON 620 2125,
CATHY LYNCH 883 0407 MARGARET KARMAN 649 8389
- GOWANBANK: CRAIG BEATON 876 0790
- GREATER GOVAN CAMPAIGN
FOR JOBS AND SERVICES: MARK COYLE 883 3349
- GOVAN (general): VERONICA MCLAUGHIN 440 0381
- GREENFIELD: JANE WATT 445 4296
- HOLLYROOD: ROSIE KANE 423 0278
- HOUSEHILLMUIR: CRAIG BEATON 876 079
- JOHN STREET: G REDMOND 550 4170
- LEVERN: ALEX KENMORE 876 0464
- NETHERTON: JIM GUNN 630 0115
CAROL DOUGERTY 634 0274 MARGOT CONN 634 5559
- QUEENSLIE: JOHN RODGER 771 0048
LORRAINE MCEWAN 773 3815
- SHAKESPEARE ST: HAZEL DINNAN 948 0087
- ST BONAVENTURES: JOHN PATTEN: 429 0334
- WHITEINCH: ALAN MCWILLIAM 950 2352
HELEN KENAHAN 954 1459 (959 3271)

If you want to add your campaign number to the contact list then phone it in to Andrew on 945 1069.

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

LAST WEEK THE CPSA UNION BRANCH IN THE NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK - THE LARGEST CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH IN SCOTLAND - AGREED TO SUPPORT THE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS & SERVICES CAMPAIGN IN ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND DONATED £50. THIS CAMPAIGN DESPERATELY NEEDS MORE FUNDS TO PAY FOR PUBLICITY AND FOR THE DEMO. SEND DONATIONS TO ANDREW LEWIS, 50 BRAESIDE STREET, MARYHILL, GLASGOW G20.

DIARY OF ACTIVITY

Monday 18th April
'alternative art exhibition' at
Gallery of Modern Art
& lobby of Education Committee
meet in George Sq 11.45am

22nd April - 2nd May
Public Consultation Meetings
throughout the City
& co-ordinated week of
occupations

Sunday 5th May
May Day Rally George Sq 12noon

Thursday 9th May
'activity' to publicise
demonstration on 11th
meet George Sq 10am

Saturday 11th May
demonstration & rally
George Sq 11am onwards

It is crucial that we get large numbers at these events, the media coverage is important for the campaign. There is the potential for a massive demonstration on the 11th May, not only on the issue of school closures, but on the wider implications of massive job losses, cuts in libraries, community centres, and other important services. For more detailed information about these events contact Kenny 771 3149, Craig 876 0790 or Margaret 429 4092. If you want help to organise a public meeting, or want a speaker contact any of the numbers. More publicity will be available to advertise the demo this week. An information bulletin for local groups will also be ready for use at the public consultation meetings.

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS - SAVE OUR SERVICES

NO

SCHOOL CLOSURES

DEFEND EDUCATION

**GLASGOW COUNCIL - STAND
UP TO THE TORIES**

DEFEND JOBS & SERVICES

**Sat 11th
May**

DEMO

Assemble George Sq. from 11am onwards

**SPEAKERS, MUSIC, BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE
PAINTING**

BRING THE KIDS - BRING THE BANNERS!!

OUR CAMPAIGN WANTS TO AFFILIATE TO THE GLASGOW WIDE
'SAVE OUR SCHOOLS & SERVICES' CAMPAIGN.

Name of school/campaign

Contact name & address

..... Tel

Please send to Glasgow SOS Campaign, Craig Beaton, 15 Glentyan
Drive, Glasgow G53 6JH OR PHONE 876 0790.

Save Our Schools & Services Campaign
Glasgow-Wide

NO school closures cuts in services

**A 11th Sat
May
George
Square
11am**

for more info, to sponsor the demo or if you want
a speaker to Margaret Wallace - 429-4092 or
Andrew Lewis - 945-1069

Speakers

☐ Save our Schools Campaign ☐ Anti-Cuts councillors ☐ Community Centre Closure Campaigns ☐ Teacher ☐ Library worker ☐ Sheltered Housing Cuts Campaign ☐ Fire Brigades Union + Guest Speakers

Save Our Schools & Services Campaign Glasgow-Wide

Schoolchildren, parents and communities throughout Glasgow have shown a tiny glimpse of the anger that is mounting against the full effects of the Tory budget cuts implemented by Glasgow council.

Letter writing, occupations and local demonstrations have taken place showing the depth of feeling in local communities against school closures.

Now these councillors who, for purely financial reasons, put 22 schools under threat of closure, will have to decide on May 23rd how many will be axed. This is at the same time as 20 community and neighbourhood centres are going to be shut up for good.

The same councillors are issuing compulsory redundancy notices to 77 cleaning and catering direct workers, 57 property services workers and most disgracefully 35 relief wardens who work with the most vulnerable of our community in sheltered housing complexes.

These cuts come on top of the £30 a week wage cut imposed on library workers who are already the lowest grades on the council workforce.

There has been a deliberate attempt by

the councillors to divide school against school, schools against community centres as well as attempts to divide one sector of workers against another.

The Save Our Schools & Services campaign has been able to unite groups from across the city in a united campaign against the effects of all the cuts and closures.

As the cuts begin to bite, local campaigns have stepped up the action. Indefinite occupations have begun in a number of schools and community centres with more threatened if closure is proposed. Council unions are discussing strike action in response to compulsory redundancies.

Now is the time to unite every campaign in a massive show of strength against these attacks. Mass lobbies of council sureries and a huge demonstration on May 11th can put irresistible pressure on the council to retreat.

The Save our Schools & Services campaign are calling on the council to defy these Tory cuts for twelve months until after the General Election. The council can then demand a Labour government restores the money to education and services.

**Save Our Schools & Services
Glasgow-Wide Campaign**

School Closures-Decision This Monday

Lobby

Labour Group Meeting

Mon 13th May 11am

City Chambers, George Square

Save Our Schools & Services

Campaign Meeting

"Build Every Local Campaign"

"Keep Up The Pressure"

Tues 14th May 7.30p.m.

City Halls, Candleriggs
All Welcome

Glasgow: Direct action takes on Labour Council

"Parent power has definitely won this battle. Now we have shown what we can do we plan to carry on", James Gunn, Netherton. The victory of parents and children on May 14th, defending their Primary schools from closure in Glasgow, was due to aggressive campaigning which included sit-ins & illegal demonstrations.

No Divide & Rule !

Glasgow schools, including Netherton in Castlemilk, Greenfield in Govan and Whiteinch, were reprieved by embattled Labour Councillors who had originally earmarked 22 schools for closure for financial reasons after Local Government re-organisation. Despite their victories, parents in Netherton and other schools have pledged to give support to parents in schools such as Queenslie & Shakespeare St. which are still ordered to close. There is solidarity for the sit-in at *Kinning Park Neighbourhood Centre, Cornwall St.*, occupied as officials attempted to close the Centre on May 3rd.. Links have been made with other workers, including librarians threatened with having their shift allowance withdrawn.

There have been symbolic occupations in the evening by parents, with speakers from Netherton, in particular, sending speakers & support groups to other schools to bolster their determination. Now, actual occupations & other disruptive tactics are likely from parents in the condemned schools determined not to allow their community schools to be closed at the end of June.

Self-managed struggle

In Kinning Park, a 24 hour occupation by user groups of the Neighbourhood Centre has attracted support from 'Save Our Schools' campaigners, SNP activists, and anarchists associated with anti-cuts actions in clydeside. Machinations inside the Labour Party, distracted by a bitter Candidate selection contest in Govan, has led to Kinning Park being one of three centres 'traded off' for keeping a secondary school, St. Gerards open. A plan to set up a self-managed centre can only succeed if the sit-in is successful in preventing closure & potential demolition.

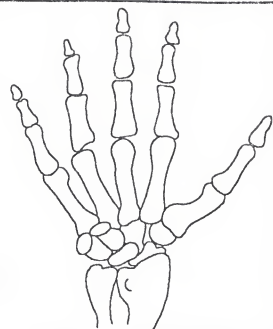
Elsewhere, in Dundee on 30th April, an attempt to occupy a primary school in Fintry, Dundee (one of 6 selected for closure) was prevented by severe police intimidation, who threatened parents with placing their children 'in care'. In West Dunbartonshire there is coordinated action to overturn planned closures of schools & centres for the elderly etc.. **With cuts in services throughout Scotland, the lesson is that only determined action by local people, prepared to disregard the Law, can defend community resources from the callous plans of politicians.**

Update your Info, Justice newsheet, see 'Get involved' p4).

Unite and Fight!

Against The Attack On Jobs & Services

Jobs
&
Services
Cut
To
The Bone!



FIGHT BACK NOW!!!

ATTEND A
PUBLIC MEETING
AGAINST

the Council's Cuts
on

Tuesday March 26th
at 7.30pm

in

Dalmuir C.E. Centre
Duntocher Road
Clydebank

(opposite Dalmuir Station)

Labour's Shameful Hitlist!

West Dunbartonshire's Labour Council should hang their heads in shame at the vicious hitlist of attacks on council workers and working class communities.

The Tories sharpened the axe, but the Labour council is wielding it. Instead of defying and defeating the hated Tories, the Labour Council are doing their despicable work for them!.

Labour's shameful attacks include:-

- ✖ Closure of Faifley Primary School plus job losses and frozen posts
- ✖ £70 per week Pre-School charges.
- ✖ Closure of Old Folks Home
- ✖ Closure of Home Services project.
- ✖ Termination of temporary staff
- ✖ Increased Home Help charges.
- ✖ Charges to be made for Alert service.
- ✖ £50,000 reduction of Grant Assistance to Community Groups.
- ✖ Threatened closure of Home Support & Day Care project.
- ✖ Reduction in the Cleansing service.
- ✖ Burial and Cremation cuts.
- ✖ Closure of Faifley and Renton Libraries.
- ✖ Increased charges for Leisure Services.
- ✖ Termination of Gardening Scheme.
- ✖ Increase in School and Hall Let charges.

Not only have the council made the above cuts in jobs and services but they've also increased our Council Tax by a massive 28%.!!!

West Dunbartonshire Alliance Against The Cuts

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE ALLIANCE AGAINST THE CUTS

BEN MORGAN (INTERIM SEC 19/3 BURNS STREET RENTON TEL: 01389-755945.

Dear Colleagues

26th April 1996

At a meeting of the interim committee held in Drumry on Tuesday April 23rd. It was decided to continue the campaign against the cuts as follows; on Saturday May 4th all members are requested to attend at 12.30 PM in the car park behind Dumbarton Burgh Hall, Church Street, Dumbarton. To take part in the annual May-Day parade for workers rights to Levensgrove Park.

Speakers at the park will include amongst others; John McFall MP. Sam Harty District Sec. T & G W U, Betty Warden G M B. Most of the councillors will be there. So a good turn-out of members will boost the campaign. Please make an effort to be there.

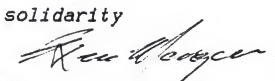
Other business dealt with at the meeting included; the adoption of a constitution, election to the interim cttee of a vice-chair Jim Bolland, treasurer Frances McGonagle, secretary/press officer Ben Morgan, a bank account to be opened in the name of the group 'West Dunbartonshire Alliance Against The Cuts.' the secretary was requested to write to various groups and individuals.

It was also reported that the donations made at the meeting on the 16th April amounted to £52.18P. This was given to the Milton Tenants & Residents Assosc. who made up the shortfall of £4.82P to meet the bill for £57.00 for the hire of the School Hall,

Subject to confirmation it is hoped to hold the next general meeting in Faifley Primary School towards the end of May when all relevant matters will be put to members. The secretary has contacted the Labour Group Sec. seeking dates for a meeting with members of the administration. A reply has yet to be received.

Looking forward to Saturday May 4th and a good turn-out.

Yours in solidarity


Ben Morgan.

Save Our Schools & Services

March & Rally
Sat 11 May
- 1996 -
Assemble 11.00am
George Square
- Glasgow -

**NO SCHOOL
CLOSURES!**

Save Our Schools & Services

March & Rally
Sat 11 May
- 1996 -
Assemble 11.00am
George Square
- Glasgow -

**NO SCHOOL
CLOSURES!**

STATEMENT OF AIMS OF
THE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

agreed at meeting City Halls Thursday 4th April

ORGANISATION

In order to build on the achievements of many different local campaigns, there has been general agreement among parents and activists that a Glasgow wide co-ordinated campaign would benefit the campaign against school closures.

It is proposed that each individual campaign should sponsor a Glasgow-wide Save Our Schools campaign. Each campaign would delegate at least one volunteer to attend a weekly campaign co-ordinating group to discuss and plan the activities of the campaign.

It is proposed that tenant's groups, community council's and trade union branches should be approached and asked to formally support the Save Our Schools Campaign. Any affiliated organisation would delegate one volunteer to attend the weekly co-ordinating group.

FINANCE

A number of centrally organised events must take place if this campaign is to be in any way successful. These events will cost money. It is estimated that an initial campaign fund of £300 is required to fund the activities listed below. It is proposed that the funds should be raised in following way:

An sponsorship payment of £5.00 per school campaign.

Trade Union branches should be approached and asked to donate £10.

ACTIVITIES

18th April - 'alternative art exhibition' at Gallery of Modern Art

22nd- 26th April- Co-ordinated Week of Occupations in Schools

11th May - demonstration and rally in George Sq

15th/16th May - lobby of education committee

22nd/23rd May - lobby of full council

It is also proposed that locally organised mass lobbies of councillors surgeries take place on in late April/ early May.

It is recommended that a campaign bulletin be printed. This bulletin would help to provide the arguments for local groups to circulate in their communities. It would be used prior to the public consultation meetings in conjunction with material to advertise the demonstration on May 11th.

Furthermore local groups should ensure that the consultation meetings are well covered by the campaign, that these meetings are well attended and that plenty of publicity about The Save our Schools Campaign is distributed at these events, in particular publicity for the demo.